



# **West Virginia Senate**

## **Committee on Pensions**

**Minutes for MARCH 17, 2021, 2:33 PM**

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Pensions met on March 17, 2021, 1:53 PM in Room 451-M.

Members present: Senators Nelson, Clements, Azinger, Swope, Lindsay, Plymale

Members absent: Senators Trump

A silent roll call being taken, the presence of a quorum was established.

On motion of Senator Clements, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Chair Nelson explained to those present that the agenda for this meeting was a discussion to consider a third tier within the PERS system to uniformed service members, including 911 Emergency and Safety Personnel and other law enforcement within PERS 1&2. Prior to recognizing Jeff Fleck, Executive Director of the CPRB, Chair Nelson welcomed the Senator from Mercer as a new member of the committee.

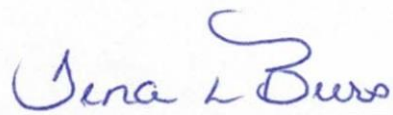
Mr. Fleck identified which groups may qualify for the third tier, which could be around three thousand eligible employees. He discussed the challenges of the different groups having different retirement ages, variances in benefit multipliers and other issues which makes this a challenge. Mr. Fleck answered questions from the committee. Discussion followed related to possible start up costs and the incidence of individuals who would qualify for more than one PERS tier, and the complexity of setting up procedures for qualification, given the varying percentages of funding, dependent upon the tier.

Chair Nelson recognized John Rutherford, Director of Metro 911, who was attending via Teams. Director Rutherford spoke his concern and rationale for including 911 personnel in the retirement system. Chair Nelson thanked Mr. Rutherford for his input.

On Motion of Senator Clements the committee adjourned.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Nelson Jr.", with a stylized, cursive script.

Eric Nelson Jr.  
Committee Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tina L. Burs", with a stylized, cursive script.

Tina L. Burs  
Committee Clerk